Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF May 20, 2002 TO May 24, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	April			The Canadian CPI rose 0.6% in April. Increases were led by transportation (2.5%), alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (2.4%) and health and personal care (0.7%). The Alberta CPI increased 1.6% in April and was up 3.4% from April 2001.
Alberta	122.9	1.6%	3.4%	
Canada	118.4	0.6%	1.7%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	April			The Composite Leading Index rose 1.2% in April, following a 1.3% increase in March. Strength began to shift from final demand to manufacturing. As well, the housing index continued to grow in April (0.8%), following even higher increases in February (4.1%) and March (2.4%). Nine of the ten components posted increases in April, one more than in March. The index was up 5.4% over April 2001.
	175.2	1.2%	5.4%	
Retail sales	March			Canadian retail sales decreased slightly in March, falling 0.2%. This follows a 0.1% decrease in February. Declines in clothing (-1.7%) and automotive (-0.2%) were partly offset by gains reported in drug and patent medicine stores (0.8%) and food sales (0.8%). In March, Alberta retail sales fell 1.6% from February, but were up 5.0% from March 2001.
Alberta	3,034	-1.6%	5.0%	
Canada	25,193	-0.2%	3.3%	
Wholesale Trade ($ millions)	March			Wholesale trade in Canada fell 0.2% in March to $33.6 billion. Decreases in food products (-3.2%), farm machinery (-2.9%) and Industrial and other machinery (-2.2%) were partly offset by increases in lumber (1.7%), household goods (1.3%) and motor vehicles (0.9%). Alberta wholesale trade decreased 0.9% in March, and was down 2.2% from March 2001.
Alberta	3,410	-0.9%	-2.2%	
Canada	33,635	-0.2%	0.2%	

Economics & Public Finance
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